

2003 Annual Report

learn more about recycling at booths at various community fairs and festivals including Celebrate Fairfax, Fall for Fairfax, Earth Day/Arbor Day, Rocktoberfest, and Raytheon Earth Day. Additionally, information on recycling was made available to citizens as part of the 80 presentations made as part of the outreach for the 2004 -2024 Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Plan. The Solid Waste Management Program's booth was awarded a blue ribbon for content at Celebrate Fairfax which draws over 10,000 attendees yearly.

To encourage commercial recycling, the SWMP continued its business recycling awards program. Three businesses won awards. In addition to presenting the awards to the recipients at Earth Day/Arbor Day, staff traveled to each of the winner's sites to present the awards at a staff gathering and maximize program exposure.

Internally, the Employee Recycling Committee has continued to thrive. The ERC has increased its membership by 1/3 in 2003 and has sponsored several events to encourage employees to recycle including contests for Clean Your Files Day, and an intranet site with county employee recycling information.

The Recycling Ambassadors program continues with over 100 people volunteering over the course of 2003. New this year is a "Junior Ambassador" program. Top volunteers were recognized at our America Recycles Day event last November.

Fairfax County participated cooperatively with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) in a regional recycling radio campaign, which was broadcast over 7 radio stations during a 2-week period. Additionally, the County participated with MWCOG in the America Recycles Day Campaign. To show their support for this important effort, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November 15th as America Recycles Day. Over 90,000 America Recycles Day pledge cards were distributed through county schools, libraries, and recreation centers. One of the regional prizes was awarded to a FCPS student in Springfield. Our traditional Recycle Right (beautiful bin) contest selected the best bin from some very creative digital photos contributed by County residents. Additionally, the County sponsored a highly successful Community Recycling Road Show where we collected over 20 tons of computers, 100 bicycles, 500 cell phones and nearly 300 pairs of eyeglasses. Nearly a dozen community groups were involved in the effort which was heavily advertised throughout Fairfax County. The 2003 event was recognized as one of the top ARD efforts in the country by the national America Recycles Day organization.

The Solid Waste Management Program maintains a web site which includes information on residential, office, and yard waste recycling, buying recycled content products and reducing waste. It also provides electronic versions of most Division publications. New information about recycling education opportunities and events is constantly being added to the website. This year, the office established a listserv for county residents interested in news about recycling.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/recyclingtrash.htm>

Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) works with Fairfax County to present educational opportunities. Stream restoration workshops and watershed /water quality presentations are given on a regular basis to students, homeowners, professionals, and organizations. Volunteers are educated and enlisted to plant riparian buffers. Rain garden presentations and workshops are given for garden clubs,

homeowner association, and professionals. Brochures and exhibits have been developed for public outreach at festivals, Arbor Day, and other environmental celebrations. There were 20 such activities in 2003 presented by VDOF. VDOF assisted Daniel's Run Elementary School with the installation of a rain garden in 2003. This particular garden will capture parking lot surface flow before it enters Daniel's Run.

Literature, demonstration gardens and workshops are the means being used to educate the public about the values of these stormwater management tools. VDOF maintains a web site for riparian buffer and rain garden information at:

<http://www.dof.state.va.us/rfb/rain-gardens.shtml>

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD)

NVSWCD sponsors neighborhood education programs about the dangers of dumping pollutants (e.g., leaves, fertilizer, oil, toxic chemicals, animal waste, trash, etc.) in storm drains. The information and education program culminates with stenciling a reminder message on the face of several drains throughout the neighborhood. The NVSWCD has the responsibility for guiding storm drain stenciling projects in the county and ensuring they adhere to District and VDOT standards. In 2003, two stenciling projects brought nonpoint source pollution prevention information directly to 740 households.

The NVSWCD provides technical assistance and information to County agencies and citizens for the prevention and control of soil erosion, the management of stormwater, the reduction of nonpoint source pollution in runoff to streams and lakes, and the sound management of our urban, suburban, and agricultural lands.

During 2003, NVSWCD received 205 public information inquiries and distributed approximately 3,953 brochures and flyers related to the reduction of nonpoint source pollution. NVSWCD revised and reformatted the ***Citizens Water Quality Handbook***, updated the contact list, renamed it the **Water Quality Stewardship Guide**, and placed it on the web page. It contains a great deal of useful information about water and watersheds, water quality, the sources of nonpoint source pollution, and suggests specific actions citizens can take to improve water quality.

Education resource materials, watershed awareness programs, and an inter-active watershed model provided by NVSWCD are aimed at teachers, youth, schools, Scout groups, and the general public. The watershed model, ***Enviroscape***, is used to demonstrate the sources and methods for controlling non point source pollution from various land uses. During 2003, the watershed model was used during 14 presentations to educate 351 people.

NVSWCD provided technical advice to 595 homeowners and homeowner associations, including 217 on-site visits to advise on erosion, drainage, and other environmental problems and 67 site visits to advise on pond management.

NVSWCD provides administrative, technical, and educational support to citizen-based watershed groups, including the Difficult Run Community Conservancy, Fairfax Trails and Streams, Friends of Sugarland Run, and Friends of Little Rocky Run. NVSWCD, DPWES, ANS, the Potomac River Greenways Coalition, and several watershed groups meet bi-monthly as the "Fairfax Watershed Network." Their purpose is to exchange information, to promote community-based watershed stewardship groups, and to provide support.

NVSWCD hosts quarterly Green Breakfasts to provide an opportunity for the community to hear about topics of environmental interest and discuss environmental issues. Watersheds and stormwater management were the topics of two Green Breakfasts. In March, the Findings and Recommendations of the New Millennium Occoquan Task Force were presented. In May, the Findings and Recommendations